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UNCLAS ANKARA 003181

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SUBJECT: PSI: TURKEY PRESS RELEASE TO MARK 2ND ANNIVERSARY OF PSI

1. The Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs marked the 2nd Anniversary of the Proliferation Security Initiative with a formal press release expressing Turkey's support of this important initiative along with the government's commitment to host a PSI exercise in the spring of 2006. This release was provided to all major press outlets in Turkey and reported in news reports.

2. Begin text of Press Release:

N0: 90- May 31, 2005, announcement on the occasion of 2nd anniversary of the Proliferation Security Initiative

PSI (Proliferation Security Initiative) was launched by 11 countries 2 years ago on May 31, 2003. Turkey announced its support to the Initiative, which was consolidated on December 2003 within the framework of the UNSC Resolution 1540 dated April 28, 2004 calling member states to take precautionary measures against illegal trade of WMD, to strength their national controls and legislation on the matter and to develop international cooperation.

Important improvements have been shown since the implementation of this Initiative aiming at filling in gaps of the current international agreements for nonproliferation of WMD, launchers and other related materials, the control regimes and national export control systems. Number of states supporting this Initiative is more that 60. They adopted the "Paris Interdiction Principles", the primary document of this Initiative containing introduction information.

Turkey has been following up and supporting activities conducted within the framework of this Initiative, including interdiction operations. Our country, at the same time, has taken necessary steps in improving coordination between related institutions and making arrangements in domestic law in light of UNSC Resolution 1540 and PSI implementations. We aim at increasing our contribution to this Initiative in the coming years. Within this context, we have decided on hosting land/air/sea exercise in the East Mediterranean in 2006. Related activities for this event are being carried out by the TGS along with other institutions.

Turkey gives great importance to make contributions to the PSI implementations, which constitute considerable dimension of the international community's fight against terrorism. Being aware of the importance of international cooperation in fight against terrorism, our country will continue with its endeavors in all platforms on the matter.

End text.

MOORE